

APR 25 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 15 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged. The full text of the presently pending claims is set forth below.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing ~~an application-level~~ a message between services in a message routing network, said ~~application-level~~ message including a header and one or more of a body and an attachment, the method comprising:

(a) associating an identifier with an entity that has been authenticated by said message routing network, wherein said identifier is to be associated with an entity account upon authentication of said entity with a first service that supports said entity account;

(b) receiving, from a second service, a message including said identifier, said message being directed to a mapped service, wherein said mapped service is an entity account-specific representation of said first service and acts as a proxy for said first service ~~with said second service at the application level, including hiding the identity of the second service from the first service,~~ and wherein said mapped service is operable to determine whether a route for said message needs to be modified prior to delivering said message to said first service; and

(c) when said mapped service determines that said route for said message does not need to be modified, translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said first service, wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said mapped service to said first service.

2. (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said identifier is a message

routing network ID.

3. (Original) The message routing method of claim 2, wherein said identifier is a message routing network ID for said mapped service.
4. (Previously Presented) The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising the step of associating said identifier with an entity account upon authentication of said entity with said first service.
5. (Previously Presented) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said translating comprises adding an identifier of said entity account to said message.
6. (Previously Presented) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein upon receipt of said translated message, said first service associates said identifier with said entity account based on a mapping internal to said first service.
7. (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a second message from said first service, said second message being directed to said mapped service.
8. (Original) The message routing method of claim 7, further comprising translating said second message for delivery to said second service.
9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to associate an identifier with an entity that has been authenticated by a message routing network, wherein said identifier is to be associated with an entity account upon authentication of said entity with a first service that supports said entity account;

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to receive, from a second service, a message including said identifier, said message being directed to a mapped service, wherein said mapped service is an entity account-specific representation of said first service and acts as a proxy for said first service with said second service ~~at the application level, including~~ hiding the identity of the second service from the first service;

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to translate said message for delivery to said first service, wherein said translated message is translated by said message routing network and includes said identifier and is directed from said mapped service to said first service; and

a computer-usable medium configured to store the computer-readable program codes.

10. (Currently Amended) A message routing system, comprising:

a message routing network that enables routing of a message between a first service and a second service, said message being associated with an account being supported by said second service, wherein said message routing network is operative to effect a virtual proxy service ~~at the application level for said first and second services, through which~~ said first service and said second service ~~communicate~~ capable of communicating with said virtual proxy service, wherein implementation of said virtual proxy service is supported by a mapping that associates said virtual proxy service with said account, said virtual proxy service hiding the identity of one of the services from the other service.

11. (Original) The message routing system of claim 10, wherein said message includes an identifier that is associated with said account.
12. (Original) The message routing system of claim 10, wherein said mapping is stored by said message routing network.
13. (Original) The message routing system of claim 12, wherein said message routing network adds an identifier of said account to a message being delivered to said second service.
14. (Original) The message routing system of claim 10, wherein said mapping is stored by said second service.
15. (Currently Amended) A message routing method, comprising:
 - (a) providing ~~an application-level~~ a proxy service for messages transferred between a first application service provider and a second application service provider in a message routing network, said first application service provider and said second application service provider providing application services for an enterprise, said proxy service being provided by the message routing network and enabling said first application service provider to send ~~application-level~~ information on behalf of said enterprise to said second application service provider without said first application service provider and said second application service provider having knowledge of each other at any point in time.
16. (Original) The message routing method of claim 15, wherein said proxy service adds an account identifier to a message that is transmitted to said second application service provider.